

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 In a communication system having a plurality of physical
communication ports, a hierarchical bond communication interface has a
logical interface as a component of the bond at a top level of the hierarchy,
and a first subordinate logical interface at a second level of the hierarchy as a
component of the top-level logical interface. The communication system
has a control mechanism whereby thresholds may be set to determine up or
down status of hierarchical bonds for use in communication, according to
characteristics of components of the bonds.

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